



Wedding Customary for

The Church of the Redeemer
5603 N. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21210

A Celebration of Christian marriage is a significant event in your life, as well as an important moment in the life of the Church. In the Episcopal Church, Holy Matrimony is a sacrament and service of worship. We have a responsibility to help you prepare for this joyous event and what it means for your life. The following customs and practices of this parish will give some basic information. If there are any questions, we hope you will let us know.

1. **WHO MAY BE MARRIED HERE:** The canons of the Episcopal Church state that at least one of the parties is baptized in a Christian tradition. Marriages are performed for couples in which one (or both) is a member of this parish or is in the immediate family of an active member or has permission from a Redeemer clergy member. There are canonical provisions concerning previous marriages ending in divorce. If one or both parties have been previously married and the former spouse is living, the bishop must grant permission.
2. **HOW TO GET STARTED:** Contact Amanda Kell in the parish office (410-435-7333) with the names, addresses and phone numbers of the couple and the month desired for the marriage. You will need to make an appointment as soon as possible with the priest scheduled for your ceremony. Firm arrangements for date, time and place (church or chapel) of your service will be made after discussion with the priest. This meeting should take place before arrangements are made for a reception. We do not schedule marriage services on Sunday or after 6 p.m. Saturday.
3. **OFFICIATING CLERGY:** One of the parish clergy members will officiate at the rehearsal and service. Clergy from another parish, including those of other denominations, are welcome. If you wish to include such a person, please speak to your Redeemer officiant at your initial meeting. The Redeemer clergy will then extend the appropriate invitation.
4. **HOLY MATRIMONY:** A sacramental rite of the church. Although it is the couple's special day, it is also an important part of the ministry of the church. Couples who are involved in the church are encouraged to include the Eucharist in the worship.
5. **CHURCH ATTENDANCE:** We encourage couples to worship together while preparing for marriage.
6. **PREMARITAL PREPARATION:** According to the canons of the Episcopal Church, the priest instructs "both parties as to the nature, meaning, and purpose of Holy Matrimony." This generally means three or more meetings to discuss aspects of marriage. These discussions also enable the priest and the couple to know each other better, adding to the significance of this union being celebrated before God's altar. Under normal circumstances, this counseling must be completed a month before the wedding.
7. **MUSIC:** The couple must consult Redeemer's music director to plan the music. Arrangements should be made no later than two weeks before the wedding. If the organist does not hear from the couple by that time, he will select appropriate music. The service of worship may include two congregational hymns.

8. **MARRIAGE LICENSE:** Only a Baltimore City license is valid for use at the Church of the Redeemer. Applications are filed with the clerk of the Baltimore Circuit Court. There is a 48-hour waiting period before a license is issued. One party of the couple must make the application in person. The license must be brought to the priest at the last counseling session.
9. **CHURCH OR CHAPEL:** Marriages may be held in either place. Seating capacity in the chapel is 180; it's 850 in the church. Saturday weddings in the church must finish by 2 p.m.
10. **WEDDING COORDINATOR:** A Redeemer wedding coordinator can assist you with details of arrangements. This person can help conduct the rehearsal and coordinate the procession of the wedding party from the back of the church or chapel. If you want to work with a wedding coordinator, please tell Ms. Kell in the church office no later than four weeks before the wedding.
11. **WEDDING REHEARSAL:** The date and time should be set during the initial interview with the officiating priest. The priest will lead the rehearsal. The following participate: the bride and groom, parents, all attendants, readers and ushers.
12. **FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS:** One or two arrangements of flowers at the altar are appropriate. Specific plans can be discussed with a wedding coordinator. Flowers should be delivered no later than three hours before the service. They will be placed on the altar by a Redeemer staff member or a Redeemer wedding coordinator. We can advise you about proper proportions for arrangements. Flowers may be left at the altar for Sunday morning worship. Please plan any use of candles with a Redeemer wedding coordinator. Runners are not permitted, as they create a hazard.
13. **PHOTOGRAPHS:** Because Holy Matrimony is a sacrament, no flash use is permitted during the service. Pictures or videos taken in available light are permissible from the back of the church or chapel by one professional photographer. You should ask guests before the wedding day not to use cameras during the service. There is a contract that must be signed by you and a photographer and returned to the church a week before the wedding.
14. **CONFETTI:** Rice, confetti, rose petals, birdseed, etc., cause maintenance and safety problems. They are not permitted on church grounds.
15. **RECEPTION:** A reception can be held in the parish hall, if it is available, following the service. Arrangements for a caterer are to be made by you, a member of your family or a friend. Please indicate to your caterer that a full-time server must be present for the event. Wine or beer may be responsibly served; an equally attractive nonalcoholic beverage is required. We do not provide linens. Caterers used at Redeemer include:
 - a. Carol Williams 410-747-2892
 - b. Carey Talucci 410-296-0509
 - c. Jackie Nelson 410-655-4602

16. FEES AND HONORARIUM: All fees are due at the last premarital counseling meeting. Make checks payable to The Church of the Redeemer.
- a. There is a \$900 fee for the church or chapel (\$500 for current, pledging members of Redeemer). Please put “wedding” in the memo line.
 - b. There is a \$350 fee for the organist. If additional musicians are part of the service, additional fees apply and Redeemer’s music director must be contacted in advance.
 - c. An honorarium to the clergy of \$500 is at your discretion. If you choose to make this donation, please note in the memo field of a check that it’s for the “Clergy Discretionary Fund.”
 - d. There is a \$500 fee for the use of the parish hall for a reception.

Oct. 14, 2025